

REMARKS

The Office has required restriction in the present application as follows. The species of Claim 1:

- 1) a polymerizable vinyl monomer having a carboxylic acid group;
- 2) a radically polymerizable vinyl monomer having a strong acid group and
- 3) a radically polymerizable vinyl monomer copolymerizable with monomers 1 and 2.

Applicants elect, **with traverse**, monomer 2), a radically polymerizable vinyl monomer having a strong acid group.

In a telephone interview with Mr. Yang on January 4, 2007, Applicants pointed out that Claim 1 requires **all three** monomers and not each monomer singularly. After rereading Claim 1, the Examiner agreed that it requires that the support polymer be obtained by radical emulsion polymerization of monomers (1), (2) **and** (3). The Examiner further agreed to withdraw the Election of Species requirement upon Applicant's traversal. He also indicated his confusion was caused by the phrase "at least one of" which appears after the recitation of monomers 1, 2 and 3 and requested that this phrase be stricken from the claim.

Applicant's request the Examiner to reconsider his position to strike this language, because when claim 1 is read in its entity it clearly requires **all three** monomers be present and the language "at least one of" further defines monomers (1) (2) and (3). The Examiner is requested to withdraw his requirement of eliminating the phrase "at least one of", since the language preceding this limitation clearly requires the presence of **all three** monomers (1), (2) and (3).

Applicants further respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement on the grounds that no adequate reasons and/or examples have been provided to support a conclusion of patentable distinctness between the identified groups or shown that a burden exists in search

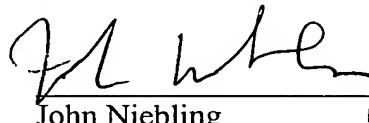
all of the claims. Distinctness has clearly not been shown by the Examiner's restriction, since Claim 1 clearly requires the presence of **all three** monomers.

Accordingly and for the reasons presented above, Applicants submit the Office has failed to meet the burden necessary in order to sustain a Restriction Requirement. Withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for Examination on the merits and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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